

A circular black and white stamp. The outer ring contains the text "OIPÉ JC174" at the top and "PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE" at the bottom. In the center, the date "JAN 09 2004" is stamped.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

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INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(b)

A copy of each listed document is attached. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner consider the listed documents and evidence that consideration by making appropriate notations on the attached form.

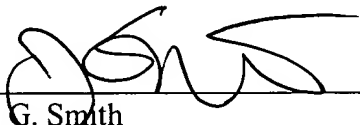
Relevance of the documents can be ascertained from the attached Search Report.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made or that any better art exists and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material or constitutes "prior art." If it should be determined that the listed documents do not constitute "prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents. Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Statement, please charge the fee to our Deposit Account No. 50-0310.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: January 9, 2004

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